

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 03606 261419Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AID-05 EUR-12 SCCT-01 SY-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

BIB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

AGR-05 CU-02 PC-01 FEAE-00 INT-05 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /129 W

----- 080259

O R 260030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1267

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, CS

SUBJECT: DEMOCRATIC UNION IN QUEPOS THREATENED BY
COMMUNIST UNION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE
DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT AND THE COMMUNIST LABOR
MOVEMENT MK GROWING TO THREATENING PROPORTIONS IN
THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC AREA OF QUEPOS WHERE UNITED
BRANDS HAS ITS AFRICAN PALM OPERATIONS. THERE, THE
MINORITY COMMUNIST BANANA WORKERS UNION HAS MANAGED
TO SHUT DOWN THE OPERATIONS OF UNITED BRANDS IN
SUPPORT FOR ITS DEMAND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN JO 03606 261419Z

NEGOTIATION OF A NEW CONTRACT, WHICH THE BANANA

COMPANY IS ALREADY NEGOTIATING WITH THE RECOGNIZED MAJORITY DEMOCRATIC UNION. A DEFEAT FOR THE DEMOCRATS IN THIS AREA WILL ALL BUT ELIMINATE THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE ENTIRE PACIFIC BANANA ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. SITRADIQUE (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES DE LA DIVISION DE QUEPOS), AFFILIATED WITH THE CCTD (CONFEDERATION OF COSTA RICAN DEMOCRATIC WORKERS), THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE QUEPOS AFRICAN PALM WORKERS HAS, ACCORDING TO THE PAYROLL CHECK-OFF, 50 PERCENT OF THE WORKFORCE AS MEMBERS. STAPQ, (SINDICATO DE TRABAJADORES AGRICOLA Y DE PLANTACIONES DE QUEPOS), AFFILIATED WITH THE COMMUNIST CONFEDERATION (CGT) HAS, ACCORDING TO THE SAME DATA, 22 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS. STAPQ IS DEMANDING PARTICIPATION IN THE CURRENT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE THE LABOR CODE REQUIREMENT THAT A UNION MUST HAVE 28 PERCENT IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE. STAPQ DEMANDED A MINISTRY OF LABOR INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING A POLL OF THE WORKERS TO DETERMINE AFFILIATION, AND A HALT TO NEGOTIATIONS WHILE THE INVESTIGATION IS HELD.

3. DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18, UNITED BRANDS CONTINUED TO NEGOTIATE WITH SITRADIQUE. THE MINISTRY ASKED FOR STAPQ'S PROOF OF STRENGTH BEFORE CALLING A HALT TO NEGOTIATIONS. THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT HAS SENT REINFORCEMENTS TO THE RURAL AND CIVIL GUARDS IN QUEPOS. MEANWHILE, STAPQ HAS EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN UB'S OPERATIONS IN QUEPOS AND HAS THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN ALL THE COUNTRY'S BANANA PLANTATIONS. STAPQ STRATEGY HAS INCLUDED IMPORTING CGT AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS FROM SAN JOSE AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY FOR A DOOR-TO-DOOR PROSELYTIZING CAMPAIGN AMONG THE BANANA WORKERS. CCTD CLAIMS THAT THESE ELEMENTS HAVE JEEPS, MOTORCYCLES, AND EVEN WALKIE-TALKIES AT THEIR DISPOSAL. LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS AND COMMUNIST PARTY (PASO) DEPUTY ARNOLDO FERRETO ARE ALSO IN QUEPOS. NOT TO BE OUT-THREATENED; CCTD LEADER GILBERT BROWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN JO 03606 261419Z

(PETROLEUM WORKERS UNION) HAS THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN RECOPE (COSTA RICAN REFINERY) IF SITRADIQUE IS FORCED TO SHARE ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH STAPQ. CCTD IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO BRING IN REINFORCEMENTS FROM LIMON AND GOLFITO.

4. THE SITUATION IN QUEPOS, ACCORDING TO ALL SOURCES, IS TENSE AND COULD RESULT IN VIOLENCE.

ALREADY THE CENTRAL MARKET IN QUEPOS--WHICH HOUSED THE SITRADIQUE--SUFFERED A FIRE OF MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN, AND THE RURAL GUARD HAS HAD THE DISTASTEFUL JOB OF BODILY REMOVING FEMALE DEMONSTRATORS, PLACED BY

STAPQ, WHO BLOCKED THE WAY OF WORKERS ATTEMPTING TO GET TO THEIR JOBS.

5. COMMENT: SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE WILL PROBABLY RESOLVE THE SITUATION; HOWEVER, IF THE COMPROMISE ALLOWS STAPQ TO HOLD A JOINT CONTRACT WITH SITRADCUE, THE LOSER WILL INEVITABLY BE THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT. A LOSS FOR THE ALREADY WEAKENED CCTD, WHILE IT IS STILL UNDERGOING A LEADERSHIP CRISIS, COULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS. AFTER THE SAME COMPROMISE SITUATION WAS REACHED IN GOLFITO SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THE CCTD AFFILIATE SITRABUNI EVENTUALLY LOST ITS MAJORITY CONTROL AND NOW HAS LESS THAN 50 ACTIVE MEMBERS. SITRADIQUE IN QUEPOS HAS BEEN CONSIDERED UP TO THIS POINT ONE OF THE CCTD'S BEST UNIONS. ITS FAILURE WOULD LEAD TO A FURTHER DEMORALIZATION WITHIN THE CCTD. ALSO, A COMPROMISE WHICH GIVES A CLEARLY MINORITY UNION A SHARE OF THE POWER WILL FURTHER CONVINCE THE CCTD THAT THE LABOR MINISTRY, WHICH PRIVATELY DEPLORES THE ADVANCES OF THE COMMUNISTS BUT DOES NOTHING TO HELP THE CCTD, FAVORS THE COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENT (A SUSPICION CCTD LEADERS HAVE HAD FOR A LONG TIME).
TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR DISPUTES, COMMUNIST LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO003606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750295-0144
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750817/aaaaaowx.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMOCRATIC UNION IN QUEPOS THREATENED BY COMMUNIST UNION
TAGS: ELAB, CS, UNITED BRANDS, SITRADIQUE, CCTD, CGT, STAPQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006